

THE PROHIBITION OF TAKING ADVISORS FROM AMONG THE DISBELIEVERS

Allah (Subhanahuwa Ta ‘ala) says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَتَخِذُوا بِطَانَةً مِّنْ دُونِكُمْ لَا يَأْلُونَكُمْ
خَبَالًا وَدُوًا مَا عَنِتُّمْ قَدْ بَدَتِ الْبَغْضَاءُ مِنْ أَفْوَهِهِمْ وَمَا
تُخْفِي صُدُورُهُمْ أَكْبَرُ قَدْ بَيَّنَاهُ لَكُمُ الْآيَاتِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ

O you who believe! Take not as (your) Bitanah (advisors, consultants, protectors, helpers, friends) those outside your religion (pagans, Jews, Christians, and hypocrites) since they will not fail to do their best to corrupt you. They desire to harm you severely. Hatred has already appeared from their mouths, but what their breasts conceal is far worse. Indeed We have made plain to you the Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses) if you understand

(Surah Al-‘Imran 3:118)

Allah forbids His believing servants from taking the hypocrites as advisors, so that the hypocrites do not have the opportunity to expose the secrets of the believers and their plans against their enemies. The hypocrites try their very best to confuse, oppose and harm the believers any way they can, and by using any wicked, evil means at their disposal. They wish the very worst and difficult conditions for the believers.

Allah (Subhanahuwa Ta ‘ala) says:

﴿لَا تَتَخِذُوا بِطَانَةً مِّنْ دُونِكُمْ﴾

Take not as (your) Bitanah (advisors, consultants, protectors, helpers, friends) those outside your religion (pagans, Jews, Christians, and hypocrites)

In reference to taking followers of other religions as consultants and advisors, for advisors of a certain person have access to his most secret affairs.

The Prophet Muhammad (Salla-Allahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) said,

ما بَعَثَ اللَّهُ مِنْ نَبِيٍّ وَلَا اسْتَخْلَفَ مِنْ خَلِيفَةً إِلَّا كَانَتْ «
بِطَانَةً تَأْمُرُهُ بِالْخَيْرِ وَتَحْضُهُ عَلَيْهِ، وَبِطَانَةً لَهُ بِطَانَتَانِ
»تَأْمُرُهُ بِالسُّوءِ وَتَحْضُهُ عَلَيْهِ، وَالْمَغْصُومُ مَنْ عَصَمَ اللَّهُ

“Allah has not sent any Prophet nor was there any Khalifah but they have two types of advisors, one that commands him with righteousness and advises it, and another that command him with evil and advise him with it. Only those whom Allah gives immunity are immune.”

(Bukhari & An-Nasa'i)

Ibn Abi Hatim reported that Ibn Abi Ad-Dahqanah said,

“Umar bin Al-Khattab was told,

‘There is young man here from the people of Hirah (in Iraq, who were Christians) who is a proficient scribe. Why do you not appoint him as a scribe’

‘Umar said,

‘I would then be taking advisors from among the disbelievers.’”

This Ayah and the story about ‘Umar testify to the fact that Muslims are not allowed to use Ahl Adh-Dhimmah to be scribes in matters that affect the affairs of Muslims and expose their secrets, for they might convey these secrets to combatant disbelievers.

Allah (Subhanahuwa Ta ‘ala) says:

﴿لَا يَأْلُونَكُمْ خَبَالًا وَدُواً مَا عَنْتُمْ﴾

since they will not fail to do their best to corrupt you. They desire to harm you severely

Allah (Subhanahuwa Ta ‘ala) says:

﴿قُدْ بَدَتِ الْبَغْضَاءُ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَمَا تُخْفِي صُدُورُهُمْ أَكْبَرُ﴾

Hatred has already appeared from their mouths, but what their breasts conceal is far worse

Enmity appears on their faces and in what they sometimes utter, as well as, the enmity they have against Islam and its people in their hearts. Since this fact is apparent to every person who has sound comprehension, therefore,

﴿قَدْ بَيِّنَّا لَكُمُ الْآيَتِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ﴾

Indeed We have made plain to you the Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses) if you understand